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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 EUR-12 IO-13 /078 W
----------109668 161946Z /64
O R 161910Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2133
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, SHUM, SF
SUBJECT: REPORTS OF GOVERNMENT MOVES AGAINST CROSSROADS

1. THIS WEEK THERE HAVE BEEN VARIOUS REPORTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO MOVE SOON AGAINST THE CROSSROADS SQUATTER CAMP OUTSIDE OF CAPE TOWN. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR GRANDE YESTERDAY AUGUST 15 PASSED ME A MESSAGE FROM "PEOPLE CONCERNED WITH HELPING THE RESIDENTS OF CROSSROADS CAMP".

2. ACCORDING TO THE MESSAGE, SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE BEGAN RAIDS YESTERDAY MORNING, AUGUST 15, ON SOME FAMILIES IN CROSS-ROADS. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE BULLDOZING WILL BEGIN ON MONDAY, AUGUST 21 CONTRARY TO MINISTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MARAIS STEYN'S STATEMENTS SOME TIME AGO THAT NO DEMOLITIONS WOULD OCCUR BEFORE THE END OF WINTER. THE MESSAGE SPECULATES THAT THE GOVERNMENT DECISION WAS TAKEN BECAUSE IT BELIEVED THE PUBLICITY WOULD BE LESS NOW THAN AFTER ORGANIZATIONS WORKING ON BEHALF OF CROSSROADS MOUNT AN EFFECTIVE CAMPAIGN. THE MESSAGE ASKS WHETHER THE CANADIAN AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS/AMBASSADORS MIGHT MAKE STATEMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE CROSSROADS INHABITANTS.
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3. COMMENT: IN MY SPEECH IN JOHANNESBURG ON AUGUST 8, TEXT OF WHICH WAS PROVIDED TO DEPT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, I REFERRED TO THE PLIGHT OF THE CROSSROADS CAMP RESIDENTS AS ONE OF THOSE ISSUES WHICH IS BOUND TO GENERATE CRITICISM. I THEREFORE SEE LITTLE PURPOSE IN RAISING MATTER FURTHER AT THIS END, BUT BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE USEFUL, IF PRESS STORIES APPEAR IN THE

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UNITED STATES ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EARLY GOVERNMENT
MOVE AGAINST CROSSROADS, TO FOLLOW UP WITH USG EXPRESSIONS OF
CONCERN. WE ASSUME AMERICAN JOURNALISTS IN JOHANNESBURG WILL
BECOME AWARE OF THE REPORTS OF AN EARLY GOVERNMENT MOVE AGAINST
CROSSROADS AND WILL BE FILING STORIES ON THE SUBJECT.
EDMONDSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, SQUATTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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SAS ID: 1722408
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